

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT

911 North County Highway 393, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459

"Prompt, Competent, Caring Response in Time of Need"



The Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Walton Fire District will hold a regular meeting on **June 14, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.** at the South Walton Fire District Administration building.

The agenda will include, but not be limited to the following:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting: 05.10.2021
- III. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- IV. Attorney's Report
- V. Chief's Report
- VI. Committee Reports
Pension Board Quarterly Report
Charlotte Flynt, Fire Commissioner
- VII. Unfinished/Old Business
- VIII. New Business
Board Action: 393 South Property Lease
Daniel LaTour, Assistant Chief

Board Action: Resolution 21-02 Surplus Property
Daniel LaTour, Assistant Chief

Board Advisory: Fire Commissioner Seat 3 Vacancy
Ryan H. Crawford, Fire Chief
- IX. Public Comment*
- X. Adjournment

***Note:** Persons who wish to be placed on the agenda must contact the Administrative Assistant within five days of any meeting and provide the name of the person who will be speaking and the subject to be addressed. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Walton Fire District with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings and that, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2021

*****PENDING APPROVAL*****

Commissioners Present: Tom Cooper, Charlotte Flynt, Mark B. Foley, Maurice Gilbert, Rick Talbert

Commissioners Absent: Brian Christenson, Mike Stange

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Gilbert announced that there was a quorum present.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Foley, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 10, 2021, Board of Fire Commissioners regular meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Flynt read the April 2021 cash report into the record.

Attorney's Report:

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's May 2021 billing statement.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Crawford reviewed the Emergency Response Activity Report which included Beach Safety Responses. Chief Crawford reported that the District saw a 41% increase in response activity when comparing May 2021 to May 2020. There has been a 25% increase in YTD total response activity compared to this same time last year.

Since the beginning of the 2021 beach season on March 1st, there have been 25 double red days and 25 single red days which equates to 54.3% of the season being under dangerous surf and rip current conditions with a historically high number of visitors.

Chief Crawford reminded the fire commissioners that six LUCAS chest compression devices were approved as a capital project in FY2021's budget. All personnel received training and the LUCAS devices have been assigned to each SWFD rescue unit. Chief Crawford shared that on two occasions in May, the devices were deployed on victims suffering from sudden cardiac arrest, and in both instances, the individuals were successfully resuscitated and have resumed normal neurologically intact lives. Chief Crawford stated that the care SWFD crews delivered greatly contributed to these lifesaving efforts as well as implementing the LUCAS device. Chief Crawford further stated that the chance of survival from a cardiac arrest event pre-hospital is generally around 10% and believes the LUCAS device is making a difference in the care the community receives.

In May, Staff attended several Beach Safety Working Group meetings with representation from Walton County Sheriff's Office, Walton County Code Compliance, Walton County Emergency Management, and Walton County Tourist Development

Council (TDC) leadership. Chief Crawford is working with Interim TDC Director Jason Cutshaw to consolidate all creative ideas and input received from both the committee work as well as from the two (2) public input meetings that were held in May. Mr. Cutshaw will make a recommendation for improvements to the Walton County Board of County Commissioners.

SWFD observed both National Emergency Medical Services and Beach Safety / Rip Current Awareness weeks.

- EMS Week - Fire crews were treated to homemade chicken fajitas, rice, and beans. Chief Crawford commended EMS Chief Tim Orenic and Operations Chief Brian Hughes for grilling and serving lunch to all SWFD firefighters.
- Beach Safety and Rip Current Awareness Week - Beach Safety Director David Vaughan coordinated a Lifeguard appreciation meal at SWFD Logistics facility. The meal was provided by 98 BBQ and made possible through the generosity of a local citizen.

On May 17, 2021, staff attended a State Fire Marshal's Office grant award presentation. CFO Jimmy Patronis announced grant awards to eight (8) NWFL Fire Departments. This funding is intended to assist agencies with procuring Fire Service Decontamination equipment.

SWFD facilitated a retiree breakfast on Saturday, May 29, 2021, where District Chief Corey Harned was presented with a shadow box commemorating his 23 years with SWFD and 33 years in fire service.

Chief Crawford announced the results of SWFD's promotional testing held in May. SWFD promoted six members to new leadership positions.

- District Chief Wes Usher
- District Chief John Adams
- Lieutenant Jason Durko
- Lieutenant Luke Lewis
- Sergeant Ryan Fredricks
- Sergeant Ethan McKuhen

As a result of the promotions in May, three firefighters are scheduled to complete their 80-hour orientation process on Friday, June 18.

Chief Crawford reported that following a competitive testing process Beach Safety Officer Brandon Brown has been promoted to the position of Beach Safety Lieutenant. Brown's promotion provides SWFD with a total of four Beach Safety Division Lieutenant positions to allow more consistent day-to-day supervision of beach safety field operations.

Chief Crawford introduced 911 Communications Director Jose Perez.

SWFD continues to recruit for a Plans Examiner, 911 Communications Operators, BLS / Non-Emergency Transport Technicians, and seasonal Lifeguard positions.

SWFD's Beach Safety Division conducted the first three-week session of its Junior Lifeguard Program. In total, seventy children between nine and fifteen years of age participated in this first session. A second three-week session is scheduled for July 6-22, 2021.

On June 3, 2021, Division Chief of EMS Tim Orenic was one of the featured speakers at the Emerald Coast Emergency Care Symposium where he presented the EMS response to the "Route 91" Las Vegas shooting incident.

SWFD received the June 1, 2021, official estimate of the taxable property value which is approximately 11% higher than the figure used in the FY2021 budget. A copy of the valuation estimate letter was included in the board packet. Chief Crawford reminded the fire Board that they will need to set a tentative millage rate and First Hearing Date at next month's board meeting.

Chief Crawford, Fiscal Officer Martin, and Human Resources Manager LaBarre are scheduled to attend the FASD Annual Conference on June 15 – 18, 2021. The conference agenda includes updates on sunshine law requirements, financial reporting and audits, an economic and investment update, cyber-risks examined, financial impacts and recovery from cyber-attacks, an employee benefits analysis, a roundtable discussion on issues affecting Florida's Special Fire Control Districts, a human resources and labor law update, and a legislative update.

Chief Crawford informed the Fire Commissioners that he is scheduled to attend a Leadership Summit at the State Fire College on July 1, 2021. The focus of the meetings will be preparing our State Emergency Response Plan partners for resource management, activation, and deployment of firefighting and USAR resources.

Chief Crawford reported that hurricane season began on June 1, 2021, and that all indications predict an above-average hurricane season. Chief Crawford urges south Walton's citizens to make it a priority to update personal hurricane plans and gather any necessary supplies in preparation for the season.

Chief Crawford reminded the Fire Commissioners to submit their Form 1 financial disclosures for the last calendar year. To avoid penalty, these forms are required to be on file with the Supervisor of Elections no later than July 1, 2021.

SWFD Administrative offices will be closed on Monday, July 5, 2021, in observation of Independence Day.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners meeting will be at 4 pm on Monday, July 12, 2021.

Commissioner Talbert expressed his gratitude for the solid work accomplished by the Beach Safety Division during the public input sessions regarding beach safety.

Committee Reports: Commissioner Flynt asked Fiscal Officer Martin to confirm the pension fund percentage earnings. Martin reported that the fund earned a net of 11.81% for the half of FY2021.

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business: Chief LaTour presented a Board Action where staff recommended granting an additional one-month extension to Habitat for Humanity Restore Office, with the stipulation that the \$1,650 rent abatement originally granted on March 8, 2021, for July 2021 be deferred to the August 2021 rent.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Foley and seconded by Commissioner Talbert, the Board unanimously approved an additional one-month extension to Habitat for Humanity Restore Office.

District Chief LaTour presented a Board Action whereas Staff recommended the approval of Resolution 2021-02 Surplus Equipment and to proceed with disposition of the following:

1. 1999 Kohler 80Kw Generator
SN 5873-0899

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Flynt, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2021-02.

Fire Chief Crawford presented a Board Advisory whereas Commissioner Rick Talbert provided written notice expressing his intent to resign the Seat 3 Fire Commissioner position effective at the conclusion of the June 14, 2021, board meeting. Chief Crawford reported that Staff had advertised, and no letters of interest were received by the Fire District by the deadline of June 4, 2021. Additionally, at the direction of Chairman Gilbert, Chief Crawford contacted candidates that previously submitted letters of interest to serve as Seat 3 position when the board last filled a vacancy in August of 2019. The candidates included Ms. Cindy Dick, Mr. Michael Haygood, and Mr. Michael Carter. As of the time of the board packet preparation, Mr. Michael Carter was the only firm respondent stating that he is not able to be considered at this time. The staff's goal is to provide the board with a list of qualified candidates for board action at the July board meeting.

Chairman Gilbert recommended against re-advertising but to continue to receive applications.

Chief Crawford presented Fire Commissioner Rick Talbert with a plaque in appreciation of his service as Fire Commissioner, Seat 3, 2019-2021.

Public Comment: Patrick Miller expressed his desire to fill the Fire Commissioner Seat 3 vacancy.

Retired Miami Dade Fire Rescue Captain Michael Carter expressed his desire to fill the Fire Commissioner Seat 3 vacancy.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.